

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 132710
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
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EA/PHL - JAMES SARTORIOUS
EA/EP - ANTHONY GEBER

-----108601 250331Z /13

P R 250047Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEAN EGEN

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO SECRETARY ROMULO'S NOTE ON US-ASEAN
COMMUNICATION

REFS: A. MANILA 7784; B. MANILA 7783; C. BANGKOK 13576;
D. MANILA 4834; E. MANILA 4731; F. STATE 83994

1. UNLESS EMBASSY PERCEIVES AN OBJECTION IT IS REQUESTED
TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING NOTE TO DFA. IN PRESENTING NOTE
AND IF APPROPRIATE EMBASSY MAY POINT OUT ORALLY THAT ONE
OF THE INSTANCES CITED IN ROMULO'S NOTE, E.G. RUMORED
\$30 MILLION EARMARKING FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION WITH
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ASEAN, COULD NOT POSSIBLY HAVE ORIGINATED WITH ANY OF OUR
EMBASSIES. THE OTHER INSTANCE, WAS IN THE COURSE OF AN
INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS IN ONE OF THE ASEAN CAPITALS,
BASED ON EMBASSY MANILA REPORTING OF A CONVERSATION WITH
ROMULO ON THE US-ASEAN MINISTERIAL. WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO
MAKE SURE IN THE FUTURE THAT SUCH DISCUSSIONS ARE NOT
CONSTRUED TO BE OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF NOTE:

I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO YOUR EXCELLENCY'S NOTE OF
MAY 8, 1978 CITING SOME APPARENT MISUNDERSTANDINGS THAT

HAVE RECENTLY ARISEN AND REQUESTING THAT OFFICIAL COMMUNI-
CATIONS BETWEEN MY GOVERNMENT AND ASEAN BE COURSED ONLY
THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN MANILA.

PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT MY GOVERNMENT HAS CHanneled, AND
WILL CONTINUE TO CHANNEL, ALL OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS
WITH ASEAN THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
THE PHILIPPINES AND THROUGH THE ASEAN WASHINGTON COMMITTEE.
TO ENSURE FULL COORDINATION, IT IS THE PRACTICE OF MY
GOVERNMENT TO SIMULTANEOUSLY CONVEY COMMUNICATIONS TO THE
ASEAN WASHINGTON COMMITTEE AND THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PHILIPPINES AS WELL.

AS A COURTESY, UNITED STATES EMBASSIES IN THE OTHER ASEAN
CAPITALS ARE GENERALLY AUTHORIZED, AND OCCASIONALLY
INSTRUCTED, TO CONVEY INFORMALLY TO HOST GOVERNMENT OFFI-
CIALS FOR PURPOSES OF MORE RAPID COMMUNICATION THE
SUBSTANCE OF MESSAGES WHICH HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY COMMUNI-
CATED THROUGH THE ASEAN WASHINGTON COMMITTEE AND THROUGH
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THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PHILIPPINES AS
WELL. MY GOVERNMENT IS AGAIN INSTRUCTING OUR EMBASSIES
THAT ANY INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THIS BASIS IS INFORMAL
AND THAT OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS WITH ASEAN ARE CONVEYED
THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE CHANNELS.

AS DISTINCT FROM COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN MY GOVERNMENT
AND ASEAN, MY GOVERNMENT'S BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH
GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBER NATIONS OF ASEAN FREQUENTLY TOUCH
ON MATTERS THAT RELATE IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER TO ASEAN.
MY GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN, AND WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE, CARE
TO ENSURE THAT SUCH DISCUSSIONS ALSO ARE UNDERSTOOD TO
BE INFORMAL AND FALL UNDER THE GUIDELINES STATED ABOVE.

ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE RENEWED ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST
CONSIDERATION. END TEXT OF NOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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